

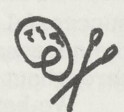

NEXT MEETING — FEBRUARY 26
St. Paul's Church, 2430 K St., N.W.

Foggy Bottom News

Vol. 17, No. 6

page one

February 1973

Come to Foggy Bottom Association's
Second Annual 
Left Bank Art Show
& Wine Tasting Event 

Saturday, March 3rd
~ 1-6 P.M. ~

St. Stephen's Parish Hall
corner 25th St. & Penn. Ave. NW

Look --- Buy --- Enjoy some Wine ---

SHORT HISTORY OF FOGGY BOTTOM PART I

George Washington University student Daniel McDonald has prepared a paper on the history of the Foggy Bottom area. Excerpts regarding the early history of the neighborhood follow. In addition to back issues of the FBNews, his sources were: Harold D. Langley, St. Stephen Martyr Church and the Community 1867-1967 (Washington, D.C.: The St. Stephen's Centennial Committee, 1968) and Charles F. Weller, Neglected Neighbors—Stories of Life in the Alleys, Tenements and Shanties of the Nation's Capital (Philadelphia: John C. Winston Company, 1909).

"The state of Foggy Bottom at the turn of the century was a dismal one. The presence of industry in the Bottom and Government installations not far outside the boundaries failed to bring prosperity to its inhabitants.

"The major industries were two breweries and the gasworks. In 1894, Christian Heurich, a German Immigrant, moved his brewing operations to the corner of 26th and D Streets, in the southern part of the section. A fire and increased demand for his Senate and Old Georgetown beer had required a move to larger headquarters. The new facility resembled 'a cross between a Rhine Castle and a 19th century New England textile mill.'

"The Abner-Drury Brewery also moved into the area in the late 1890's and it, too, became an institution in the Bottom.

"The gasworks, operated by the Washington Gas Light Company, was located at New Hampshire and Virginia Avenues. Established in 1857, the gasworks had grown to be the dominant industry in the area by 1900.

"Unfortunately, the industries contributed to the blighting of the area. The gas fumes from the production facility, the smoke and odors from the breweries, and the soot from the railroads killed almost all the trees and plants and contributed generally to poor health conditions.

"By the first decade of the 20th century, the area was one of the worst slums in Washington. Many of the inhabitants of the Bottom were freed slaves or descendants of these freedmen. During the Civil War boom years, these men and women had worked in government hospitals and army camps, especially in the Camp Fry complex located along 23rd Street south of Washington Circle. When the war boom ended, many blacks, along with poor whites also lured to Washington by jobs, stayed in the area. Many of them lived in the abandoned buildings of Camp Fry. The Bottom remained filled with these people and their descendants. Throughout the late 1800's German, Irish and Italian immigrants joined the poor blacks and whites.

"In the heart of Foggy Bottom was a section called Snow's Alley. In 1905, a social worker described the Alley as a 'dilapidated cluster of about 50 brick and wood houses in ten separate rows facing upon six distinct alley streets, which twist about confusingly, with many blind pockets where one expects exits and with other houses to be discovered in unexpected places.' The dwellings had no backyards and very few windows. The space between row houses was filled with refuse and privies. The residents had to haul water from public taps or from the river. Another social worker estimated that 'about 350 to 400 people live in the court. All but two of the households are poor colored people. The other two houses are white but poor as well.' Another social worker claimed that Snow's Alley was 'too dangerous to enter.' The rest of the area was generally in the same condition.

"Foggy Bottom was a collection of contradictions at the turn of the century. Within a short distance of the heart of the city and the wealthy neighborhoods of Dupont Circle (Christian Heurich owned a mansion on 20th Street just south of Dupont Circle. It still stands and is now the home of the Columbia Historical Society), the Bottom was a 'backwater' of Washington. Despite the industry located there, it was filled with poverty.

SEE PAGE 3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Foggy Bottom Citizens Association:

Here's two more offshoots of that protest on G W University defilement of our area.

Jerome K Eldridge

Dec. 6, 1972

Tedson J. Meyers
City Councilman
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Meyers:

I applaud your comment concerning recent activities of George Washington University.

Few citizens realize into what a monster this once-small school has mushroomed with the help of massive federal grants.

Walking daily through the "campus" on my way to and from work I have witnessed at first hand its insatiable appetite as it gobbles up more and more private homes and small businesses, turning them from tax and revenue producers into dead, tax-exempt parcels. And much of it is done with the help of well-meaning but stupid federal handouts.

That PEPCO sweetheart deal speaks for itself. An eight-story brand new office building, taking up an entire city block, rented for profit—and 100 percent tax exempt. Something like that should call for some action by our city council.

Much of this expansion has been with the help of the Board of Zoning Appeals. The case mentioned in the attached protest is typical. GW acquires a private property, bulldozes it, and then, and only then, applies for re-zoning. And GW knows from experience this is a formality—the required approval and rubber stamp will be forthcoming. If you and other councilmen can put some backbone and guts into the Zoning Board, more power to you.

Most of us are tired of constantly rising property taxes so free-loaders like GW can be a law unto themselves such as last week's behavior disclosed.

Sincerely,

Jerome K Eldridge

*Harding Salon
of Beauty*



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POTOMAC PLAZA

FE 7-5066

Mr. Jerome K. Eldridge
2475 Virginia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

December 27, 1972

Dear Mr. Eldridge:

Your letter of December 6, with attachment, dealing with one facet of the air pollution control problem in the District of Columbia, has been referred to the writer for reply.

This Office is in full agreement with your position that control on parking facilities is necessary in order to reduce levels of air pollution within the District. This was one of the strategies firmly supported by the Department of Environmental Services in the recent work of the Air Quality Planning Committee. We were successful in establishing parking controls as one of the necessary and essential strategies for application throughout the total metropolitan area.

We have, on several occasions, made representation to the Zoning Commission protesting the construction of additional parking facilities which would add to the motor vehicle pollution levels. This Department is currently working with other District agencies in a total review of the parking problem within the District with the objective of establishing basic policies which can be followed in dealing with zoning and land use problems.

The support of residents such as yourself in the execution of a limited parking policy will be needed. With the growing realization on the part of the public as to the hazards of air pollution, it is our hope that we will have full support in actions which we take to reduce the level of motor vehicle traffic.

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm C. Hope, Director
Office of Environmental Planning

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Managing Editor Anne Lomas
(days) 692-4135
(evenings) 965-2905

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All announcements, letters, articles, etc., welcome. Send to:

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
c/o West End Library
24th and L Sts., NW
Washington, DC 20037

Next edition's deadline: **SUNDAY, MARCH 4**

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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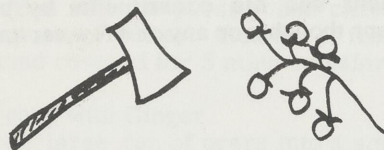
SHORT HISTORY OF FOGGY BOTTOM PART I

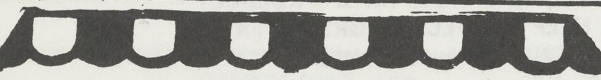
FROM PAGE 1

"The Bottom remained essentially as has been described during the next fifty years. The poverty and squalidness continued and even became worse. During Prohibition, the breweries were forced to switch to the production of legal products. The Abner-Drury Brewery bottled soda and the Heurich Brewery made ice. The breweries cut back employment sharply and the numerous taverns in the Bottom closed, which affected the economic life of the area. After Prohibition was repealed, the Abner-Drury Brewery was unable to regain its former share of the market and was forced to close in 1938.

"The Federal Government had expanded its departments so that large government offices, such as the Interior Department, were now very near the Bottom, but the area remained poverty stricken.

"In 1926, the Congress passed a resolution authorizing the Federal Works Administration to 'acquire a site south of F Street between 23rd Street and the Potomac River for a new Navy Department headquarters.' ... These plans would have destroyed a sizable portion of the Bottom community and probably would have altered the remaining area drastically. Another plan, though, proposed in 1938, authorized the construction of a new War Department Building in the area bounded by 21st, 23rd, C and E Streets. This tract is now occupied by the State Department, a significant influence in the Bottom."





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IN MEMORIAM

We regret the passing of Mr. Harry Coller, an FBNews advertiser and supporter.

Mr. Coller, a longtime resident of D.C. and owner of a chain of dry cleaning stores, died February 3, apparently of heart failure. He was 54.


Mr. Coller, who was born in Atlantic City, played the clarinet and saxophone with some of the top jazz bands of the early '40s before joining the Air Force in World War II. He attained the rank of captain and flew 52 missions in Europe.

After the war, he settled in Washington, eventually becoming involved in real estate. For 12 years, he was the owner of Coller's Liquors at 2419 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. He also owned Tiffany Valet dry cleaners.

He was active in the West End Civic Association and was a member of Samuel Gompers Masonic Lodge 45, the Progress Club and B'Nai Israel Congregation.

Mr. Coller, who lived at 1111 University Towers West, in Silver Spring, is survived by his wife, Frances; two children, Rod H. Coller of Rockville, and Mrs. Shelley R. Costin, of Virginia Beach; a sister, Edith Georges, of Audubon, N.J.; a half-brother, Joseph Kohn, of Miami, and a grandchild.

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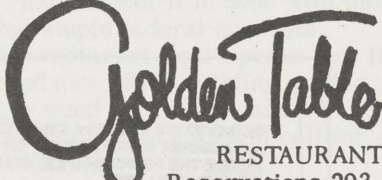
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As an official organ of the Foggy Bottom Association, Foggy Bottom News is read by more people than attend the Association meetings. In order to maintain a better communication link between the Association and the people who benefit by its existence, we periodically narrow the "communication gap" between the president and his constituents by presenting a few pertinent thoughts on any or a few, various subjects.



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Soupcon *

by Dorth Arnold

One of the best chefs in Foggy Bottom has to be Paul Vaniman on Eye Street. He not only is a superb cook but makes imaginative dishes like Osso Buco—he even has marrow spoons for this unusual entree.

The following menu was one he served at a recent buffet dinner for sixteen friends. They must have been very good friends, indeed, at the price such cuts of beef bring now. He cooked it to juicy, pink perfection so that it could be cut with a fork. It was really a scene stopper.

Cocktails
Assorted imported cheeses
Rye slices with dilled cucumber

*Filet of beef
*Risotto alla Milanese
Tossed salad with artichoke hearts vinaigrette
Red Wine
*Poached Pears with ginger
Coffee

*Filet of Beef

Roast in an open pan in a 475 degree oven for 25 min.

*Risotto alla Milanese (for 6)

Melt 2T butter in a saucepan; add 1/2 cup finely chopped onion. Cook until the onions are soft. Stir in 2 cups of rice, 1/4 cup dry Vermouth, 1 t. salt and 1 tsp saffron. Mix well. Add 1 cup chicken broth, stir and cover. Cook until the broth is absorbed. Continue this process until you have used four and one half cups of broth altogether. When the rice is tender but firm add the parsley and cheese and one more tablespoon of butter. Remove it from the heat and let it stand covered for 5 minutes before serving.

*Poached Pears with Ginger

Pour one large can of pears into a small saucepan. Add 1 T. chopped candied ginger and 2 or 3 slices of orange peel. Poach the pears for about 10 minutes. Lift the pears out carefully and drain them. Place them on a serving dish and pour whipped cream over them. Sprinkle pieces of minced candied ginger over the top.

JANUARY FBA MEETING

Mr. Jim Murphy, Treasurer of FBA gave the treasury report for the FBA and was pleased to report that the Association now has a balance of \$464. The membership stands at 170. Jim suggested that the association develop a list of past members who did not join this year who might want to join, and asked that present members make an effort to bring in one new member.

Dennis Williams made a brief announcement about the Art Show to be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at St. Stephens. 26 spaces were available and have been taken. Please come and bring your friends. It should be an exciting afternoon. Admission is free and wine will be served.

In a discussion with the Manager of the West End Branch of the D.C. Public Library and Jim Murphy, the Manager mentioned several items which the Library is in need of and, after the art show, the association will make a contribution to the Library.

Ken Durham asked for a volunteer to help deliver the FBA news. One other person would help so that the group can deliver all the papers at once to the businesses in the neighborhood who place ads.

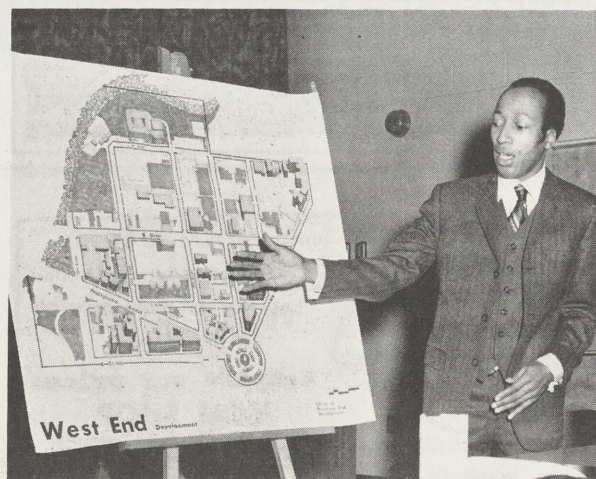
Mark ~~Plasted~~ again mentioned the FBA Bicentennial Commission and asked for suggestions about projects.

Mrs. Lynn, a visitor from the Friendship Heights Civic Association asked that the paper place on the front page each month, the notice about the Scout Car meetings. These meetings are held each month on the third Monday at the West End Branch of the Library.

The problem of the sodium vapor lights near the Kennedy Center was brought up, and it was unanimously agreed that the Association would contact the Department of Highways about these undesirable lights.

Speaker of the evening, Mr. Chadd Smith gave an informative address about the implications of the West End to Foggy Bottom. Mr. Smith would like to have suggestions from citizens of Foggy Bottom and he hopes that the citizens will take an active interest in the plans for the area. Presently the plans are for rehabilitation, new construction for business, and new apartment development.

Margaret Culhane



Mr. Chadd Smith Speaks at Jan. FBA Meeting
Photograph by A. Plaisted

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Mr.
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THE FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION

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The monthly meetings with the Metropolitan Police officers who are assigned to Scout Car 80 and patrol your neighborhood 24 hours a day are held the third Monday of each month. Watch for notices at your apartment buildings.

These meetings are designed to enable the officers to get to know the people who live and/or work in their patrol area, and to discuss any police problems in that neighborhood.

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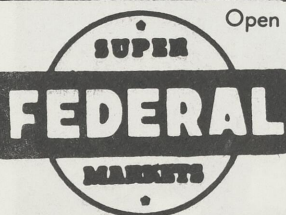
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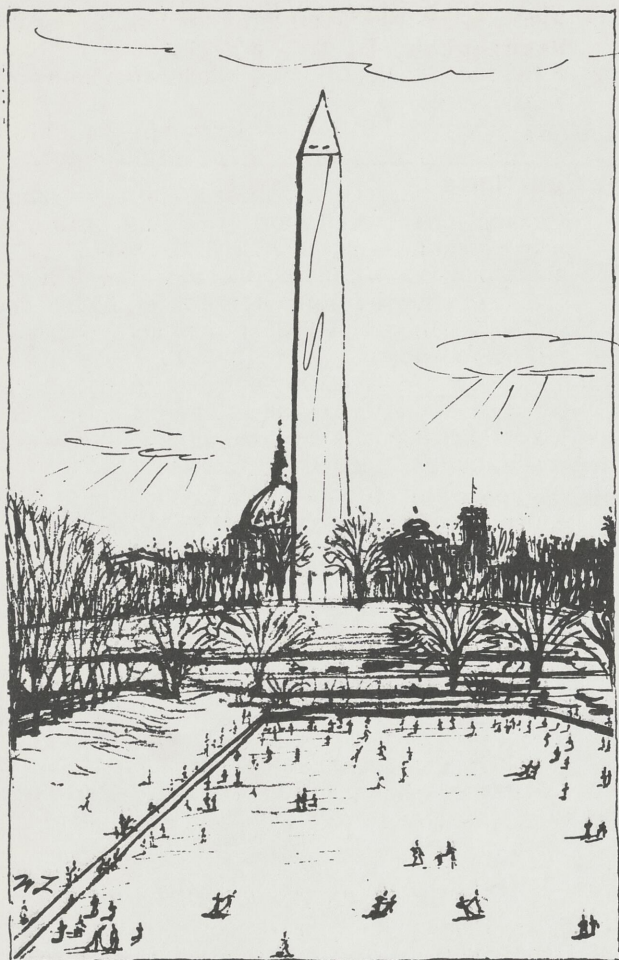
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HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 13

Fracturing for a New Age, Environmental Constructions by Wilma King, Spectrum Gallery, Tues-Sat. 10-5; Fri. Eve. 7-10; Sun. 2-5. Free.

The Third Spring Sales Gallery for contemporary American craftsmen, located at 1726 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., is announcing its February through March show:

"Food Presentation and Party Pots" running February 25th through March 24th, 1973 will feature specially designed and crafted pieces for table serving and party presentations of foods. Craftsmen being represented work in a variety of materials, including pottery, wood, aluminum and glass. Gallery hours are from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday through Saturday. The show's opening reception is scheduled for Sunday, February 25th from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 23-FRIDAY

Concert, U.S. Navy Band Brass Ensemble; Music Recital Hall, Montgomery College, Rockville, 8 PM. Free.

Fourth Friday Artist Series, Organ recital by Kamiel D'Hooche from Belgium; National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 8 PM, preceded at 7:15 by carillon concert. Free.

Ballet, "Cinderella," The National Ballet; Kennedy Center Opera House, 8 PM. For ticket information call 387-5544.

Book and Record Sale, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia; Stewart Arts Center, 2400 N. Underwood St., Arl., 10:30 AM-7PM.

Concert, Peter Nero, pianist, Washington Performing Arts Society; Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 8:30 PM. For ticket information call 393-4433.

Library of Congress Concert, Angelicum Orchestra of Milan, sponsored by the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundation; Lib. of Congress Coolidge Aud., 8:30 PM.

Opera, "The Medium" by Gian Carlo Menotti, D.C. Studio Opera, sponsored by the D.C. Dept. of Recreation; Hine Aud., 7th & Pa. Ave., S.E., 8:30 PM. Free.

Concert, George Washington University Orchestra; Lisner Aud., GWU, 8 PM. Free.

FEBRUARY 24-SATURDAY

Concert, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 8:30 PM. For ticket information call 254-3776.

Square Dance Program sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington; Washington Ethical Society Aud., 7750 16th St., NW, 8:30 PM. Small donation for non-members.

The Medium, opera. See listing for Feb. 23.

Cinderella, ballet. See listing for Feb. 23.

Ballet, "Coppelia," The National Ballet; Kennedy Center Opera House, 2 PM. For ticket information call 387-5544.

FEBRUARY 25-SUNDAY

Coppelia, ballet. See listing for Feb. 24.

Concert, Guarneri String Quartet, Rudolf Serkin, piano, Washington Performing Arts Society; Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 3 PM. For ticket information call 393-4433.

Sunday Afternoon Music Hour, Julie Giacobassi, oboe, Miller Sigmon, saxophone; Barker Hall, YWCA, 17th & K Sts., NW, 3 PM. Free.

The Medium, opera. See listing for Feb. 23. At 2:30 PM.

Organ Recital, Herbert Burtis, Washington Cathedral, 5 PM. Free.

Clarinet Recital, F. Gerard Errante; The Phillips Collection, 1600 12th St., NW., 5 PM. Free.

National Gallery Concert, National Gallery Strings, Richard Bales, conductor, with Jane White, soprano; East Garden Court. 7 PM. Free.

Choral Concert, Arlington Metropolitan Chorus; Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St., So., Arlington, 8 PM. For ticket information call 558-2161.

Guitar Concert, Andres Segovia, Washington Performing Arts Society; Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 8:30 PM. For ticket information call 393-4433.

Cinderella, ballet. See listing for Feb. 23.

America, DAR Constitution Hall, 8:30 PM. For ticket information call Ticketron, 659-2601.

FEBRUARY 27-TUESDAY

Concert, National Symphony Orchestra, Jean Martinon, guest conductor, Earl Wild, pianist; Kennedy Center Concert Hall, 8:30 PM. For ticket information call 254-3776.

International Folk Dancing. See listing for Feb. 6.

Coffee House Discussions, "Gyp Tactics in Auto Repair," by Pat Goss, Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington; Adas Israel Congregation, Conn. Ave. at Porter St., NW. Small admission charge.

FEBRUARY 28-WEDNESDAY

American Bandmasters Assoc. Concert, U.S. Army Band and the U.S. Air Force Band; Departmental Aud., Constitution Ave., bet. 13th & 14th NW, 8:30 PM. Free.

National Symphony Orchestra. See listing for Feb. 27. Same program, time, etc.

Wednesday Morning Lecture Series, "American College Festival" by Mr. Frank Cassidy, Institute of Lifetime Learning; Dupont Theatre, 10:30 AM. Small donation.

Organ Recital, by Helen Penn; St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, 12:10 PM. Free.

Circle Theatre

2103 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. FE 7-4470

Feb. 25-26 The Boys in the Band
I Never Sang for My Father

Feb. 27-28 Point of Order
JFK—Years of Lightning,
Days of Drums

Mar. 1 The Sky Above, The Mud Below
Lord of the Flies

Mar. 2-3 Wait Until Dark
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

Mar. 4-5 Putney Swope
Medium Cool